

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 148
By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of retired educator Thomas James Williams of Henderson.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Thomas James Williams, a retired teacher and coach who served with distinction in the Chester County school system; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Plainview community of Chester County, Mr. Williams was the son of the late Tom and Laura Weeks Williams; and

WHEREAS, he attended schools in Plainview and Henderson before graduating from Chester County High School, where he was a member of both the football and baseball teams in 1928; and

WHEREAS, a popular and highly regarded student, Mr. Williams attended Freed-Hardiman University, received his Bachelor's Degree from Union University in 1934 and later received his Master's Degree in Education from George Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Freed-Hardiman Sports Hall of Fame in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he served admirably as a teacher, coach and principal at Chester County High School, retiring after forty years of exemplary service in 1974; and

WHEREAS, his illustrious tenure at the school included service as coach of the football, baseball, and boys' and girls' basketball teams; and

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WHEREAS, he also served with distinction as a member of the Tennessee State Board of Education for fifteen years, providing valuable first hand experience and insight in board discussions during the 1960 and 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams also used his coaching experience to improve high school athletics as a twelve-year member and president of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Board of Control and as a member of the TSSAA Legislative Council. His excellent service as a coach, mentor and administrator was specially recognized by his induction into the prestigious TSSAA Hall of Fame in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he evinced his strong faith as an active member of the Henderson Church of Christ, where he served as a deacon, elder, very knowledgeable Sunday school teacher and inspirational song leader; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams helped to ensure that the important role Chester County has played in Tennessee history will be permanently preserved and remembered by means of his astute service as Chester County historian for many years. For more than thirty years, he was also an excellent source for people doing genealogical research; and

WHEREAS, he was charter member of the Chester County Lions Club, served as King Lion, and received his sixty-year Service Pin in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams is survived by his wife Sue McBride Williams; a daughter, Tommie Jean Polk of Memphis; a son James (Jimmy) Burton Williams of Charlotte, North Carolina; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor the memory of a person who made a significant, positive difference to our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Thomas James Williams and express our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.